DEC D 9 MINS W

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Sette et al.

Appl. No.: 09/894,018

Filed: June 27, 2001

For: Method and System for Optimizing Minigenes and Peptides Encoded

Thereby

Confirmation No.: 7107

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Marschel, A.H.

Atty. Docket: 2060.0320003/EKS/PAC

## Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for replying to the outstanding Office Action be extended two months from October 9, 2003 to December 9, 2003 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$205.00 for a two month extension for a small entity. Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

12/11/2003 MMEKONEN 00000092 09894018

01 FC:2252 210.00 QP

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Eric K. Steffe

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 36,688

Date: December 9, 2003

1100 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-3934 (202) 371-2600

207449.1